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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/018,143

04/03/2002

Bjorn Liedtke

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30996

7590

05/18/2005

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EXAMINER

KLIMOWICZ, WILLIAM JOSEPH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2652

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/018,143	LIEDTKE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	William J. Klimowicz	2652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 37-69 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 54-69 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 37-48 and 50-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 49 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

After considering the Applicants' arguments pertaining the restriction traversal, the Examiner still maintains the restriction requirement for the reasons espoused in the previous Office action.

Group I, was identified as claim(s) 37-53, drawn to a method of coating an optically readable data carrier. Group II, was identified as claim(s) 54-64, drawn to an apparatus for coating an optically readable data carrier. Group III, was identified as claim(s) 65-69, drawn to an optically readable data carrier.

The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

Group II includes the special technical feature of a laminating station, with, *inter alia*, an aligning unit, pressure rollers, etc. not set forth in either of Groups I or III, which is classified in Class 1569/584 and/or Class 156/538 of the US Patent Classification System, and in which Groups I or III are not.

Group I includes the special technical feature of, *inter alia*, withdrawing a protective film from an adhesive film prior to application of the adhesive film on a carrier surface, etc., which is classified in Class 156/238 or 156/250 of the US Patent Classification System, and in which Groups II or III are not.

Art Unit: 2652

Group III includes the special technical feature which sets forth a particular special technical feature of, *inter alia*, a protective housing which houses a positively claimed data carrier, etc., which is classified in Class 369/291 of the US Patent Classification System, and in which Groups I or II are not.

Additionally, it is noted that the Applicants did not traverse on the ground that the three Groupings of claims are not patentably distinct. If the Applicants were to traverse on the ground that the three claim Groupings I-III are not patentably distinct, the Applicants should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. If the Applicants were to include such a statement, the election requirement would be withdrawn. In either instance, however, if the Examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of the other invention.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claims 54-69 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 12

This application contains claims 54-69 drawn to an invention nonelected with traverse. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 37-47 and 50-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Amo (US 6,200,402 B1).

As per claim 37, Amo (US 6,200,402 B1) discloses a method of coating an optically readable data carrier (e.g., D1), including the step of: applying a transparent adhesive film (e.g. S2 - polyethylene - COL. 6, line 34 and substrate (D2) which is also adhered to agent (S2) *and/or* S1) to a data carrier surface (surface of D1) that is to be protected, wherein said adhesive film (S2, D2) is adhesive on one side (S2) which is applied to the data carrier surface (D1), and wherein said second side (D1) forms a transparent protective layer (D2). Note, the nothing in the claimed invention precludes the film from being made up of multiple layers; in fact, in an embodiment within the Applicants' specification, the adhesive film is a composite film made up of two layers - see FIG. 4 of Applicants' specification. "Transparent" could also be defined as "transparent to high frequency radiation such as x-rays, etc.

As per claim 38, which includes the step of withdrawing said adhesive film from a carrier film (e.g., S1) during or after application of said adhesive film (S2, D2) to said data carrier (D1) surface (e.g., see, *inter alia*, COL. 11, lines 8-19).

Art Unit: 2652

As per claim 39, which includes the step of withdrawing a protective film (e.g. S3) from said adhesive film (S2, D2 and/or S1) prior to application of said adhesive film (S2, D2 and/or S1) to said data carrier (D1) surface (e.g., see, *inter alia*, COL. 7, line 44 through COL. 8, line 20 and FIG. 1).

As per claim 40, wherein a shape and size of said adhesive film (S2, D2) corresponds to said data carrier (D1) surface (e.g., see, *inter alia*, FIG. 15B).

As per claim 41, wherein sections of said adhesive film (S2, D2) that correspond to a shape and size of said data carrier surface are punched onto a carrier film (S1) (via punch (3)).

As per claim 42, wherein said adhesive film (S2, D2) is applied to said data carrier (D1) surface in a centered manner (e.g., see, *inter alia*, FIG. 15B).

As per claim 43, wherein said adhesive film (S2, D2 and/or S1) and said data carrier (D1) surface are aligned with one another prior to said applying step (see, *inter alia*, cf. FIGS. 2 and 3).

As per claim 44, wherein during said applying step said adhesive film (S2, S1) is pressed against said data carrier (D1) surface via a rotating pressure roller (1).

As per claim 45, which includes the step of controlling a pressure of said pressure roller (e.g., the member (1) is controlled in some manner to apply a pressure by being moved vertically downward to engage the sheet (S), and is then controlled so as to move laterally across squeezing out air bubbles trapped in the adhesive film).

As per claim 46, wherein prior to being pressed by said pressure roller (1), said adhesive film (S2, S1) is held at a pre-specified angle relative to said data carrier (D1) surface (e.g., see, *inter alia*, COL. 9, lines 45-50).

Art Unit: 2652

As per claim 47, wherein said pressure roller (1) and said data carrier (D1) surface are moved relative to one another (cf. FIGS. 4-7).

As per claim 50, wherein said adhesive film (S2, D2) is a layer of adhesive material without carrier material (S1) (e.g., after it is processed).

As per claim 51, wherein said adhesive film (S2, D2 and/or S1) is hardened via at least one of pressure, time, UV radiation and thermal treatment (e.g., see, *inter alia*, FIGS. 17 and 18).

As per claim 52, wherein ten transparent protective layer is a PC tape provided on the non-adhesive side of the film - see COL. 6, lines 33-34.

As per claim 53, wherein said adhesive film (S2, S1) is an adhesive film (S2) that responds to pressure, and wherein the adhesion characteristics of said adhesive film (S2) vary as a function of pressure (via press (100)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 48 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amo (US 6,200,402 B1).

See the description of Amo (US 6,200,402 B1), *supra*.

As per claim 48, although Amo (US 6,200,402 B1) does not expressly disclose wherein said data carrier (D1) surface is moved “linearly” past said pressure roller (1) (the data carrier

Art Unit: 2652

surface is moved on a rotary table (2)), Official notice is taken that linearly moved disc processing stations (as per claim 48), are notoriously old and well known and ubiquitous in the art; such Officially noticed fact being capable of instant and unquestionable demonstration as being well-known.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a linearly moving station in lieu of a rotary table of Amo (US 6,200,402 B1).

The rationale is as follows: one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to provide a linearly moving station in lieu of a rotary table of Amo (US 6,200,402 B1) in order to provide a readily accessed sequential station assembly, which allows progression in a straight path, thus facilitating the changeover in station assemblies if one should malfunction, as is known in the art. No new or unobvious result is seen to be obtained by exchanging a rotary platform station with a linear platform station; both station types being readily known in the art.

Response to Arguments

Applicants' arguments filed January 24, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicants allege that Amo (US 6,200,402 B1) does not show an adhesive film having one adhesive side and another non-adhesive side.

As set forth in the rejection, *supra*, however, the Examiner maintains that the claims as presently drafted, still read on Amo (US 6,200,402 B1). More concretely, Amo (US 6,200,402 B1) discloses a method of coating an optically readable data carrier (e.g., D1), wherein there is

Art Unit: 2652

provided a transparent adhesive film (e.g. S2 - polyethylene - COL. 6, line 34 and substrate (D2) which is also adhered to agent (S2) *and/or* S1). The adhesive film (S2, D2 and/or S1) is adhesive on one side (S2) which is applied to the data carrier surface (D1), and the second side (D2 and/or S1) forms a transparent protective layer (D2). Note, the nothing in the claimed invention precludes the film from being made up of multiple layers; in fact, in an embodiment within the Applicants' specification, the adhesive film is a composite film made up of two layers - see FIG. 4 of Applicants' specification. "Transparent" could also be defined as "transparent" to high frequency electromagnetic radiation such as x-rays, etc.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 49 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

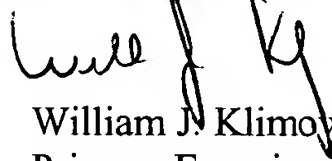
Art Unit: 2652

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William J. Klimowicz whose telephone number is (571) 272-7577. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (6:30AM-5:00PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa T. Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


William J. Klimowicz
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2652

WJK